

Whereas United States imports of finished steel mill products from Asian steel-producing countries, the People's Republic of China, Japan, Korea, India, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia, have increased by 79 percent in the first 5 months of 1998 compared to the same period of 1997;

Whereas year-to-date imports of steel from Russia now exceed the record import levels of 1997, and steel imports from Russia and the Ukraine now approach 2,500,000 net tons;

Whereas foreign government trade restrictions and private restraints of trade distort international trade and investment patterns and result in burdens on United States commerce, including absorption of a disproportionate share of diverted steel trade;

Whereas the European Union, for example, despite also being a major economy, in 1997 imported only one-tenth as much finished steel products from Asian steel-producing countries as the United States did and has restricted imports of steel from the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia;

Whereas the United States is simultaneously facing a substantial increase in steel imports from countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia, caused in part by the closure of Asian markets;

Whereas there is a well-recognized need for improvements in the enforcement of the United States trade laws to provide an effective responsibility to such situations:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, that the House of Representatives calls upon the President to:

(1) take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions, and for other purposes;

(2) pursue enhanced enforcement of United States trade laws with respect to the surge of steel imports into the United States, using all remedies available under those laws including offsetting duties, quantitative restraints, and other authorized remedial measures as appropriate;

(3) pursue with all tools at his disposal a more equitable sharing of the burden of accepting imports of finished steel products from Asia and the countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States;

(4) establish a task force within the executive branch with responsibility for closely monitoring United States imports of steel; and

(5) report to the Congress by no later than January 5, 1999, with a comprehensive plan for responding to this import surge, including ways of limiting its deleterious effects on employment, prices, and investment in the United States steel industry.

¶105.14 PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 131

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, by direction of the Committee on Rules, called up the following resolution (H. Res. 580):

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the One Hundred Fifth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1999. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their designees; and (2) one motion to recommend.

When said resolution was considered. After debate,

On motion of Mr. DIAZ-BALART, the previous question was ordered on the resolution to its adoption or rejection and under the operation thereof, the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said resolution was agreed to was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

¶105.15 WAIVING CERTAIN ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

On motion of Mr. THOMAS, pursuant to H. Res. 580, the House considered the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 331) waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the One Hundred Fifth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1999.

When said joint resolution was considered and read twice.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read a third time by title, and passed.

A motion to reconsider the vote whereby said joint resolution was passed was, by unanimous consent, laid on the table.

Ordered, That the Clerk request the concurrence of the Senate in said joint resolution.

¶105.16 SUSPENSION OF THE RULES NOTICE

Mr. THOMAS, pursuant to House Resolution 575, at 3:29 p.m. announced the Speaker would recognize Members for motions to suspend the rules under clause 2 of rule XXVII with respect to the following bills to be considered today: (H.R. 2675) to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit proposed legislation regarding which group universal and group variable life insurance would be available under chapter 87 of title 5, United States Code; and (S. 2561) to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act with respect to furnishing and using consumer reports for employment purposes.

¶105.17 THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. BUYER moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2263) to authorize and request the President to award the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously to Theodore Roosevelt for his gallant and heroic actions in the attack on San Juan Heights, Cuba, during the Spanish-American War.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, recognized Mr. BUYER and Mr. MCHALE, each for 20 minutes.

After debate,

The question being put, *viva voce*,

Will the House suspend the rules and pass said bill?

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, announced that two-thirds of the Members present had voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BUYER objected to the vote on the ground that a quorum was not present and not voting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. LATOURETTE, pursuant to clause 5, rule I, announced that further proceedings on the motion were postponed.

The point of no quorum was considered as withdrawn.

¶105.18 FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4274

Mr. DREIER, by direction of the Committee on Rules, reported (Rept. No. 105-798) the resolution (H. Res. 584) further providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4274) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

When said resolution and report were referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed.

¶105.19 FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4274

Mr. DREIER, by direction of the Committee on Rules, called up the following resolution (H. Res. 584):

Resolved, That during consideration of the bill (H.R. 4274) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union pursuant to House Resolution 564—

(1) general debate shall not exceed one hour; and

(2) amendments numbered 2 and 3 in House Report 105-762 shall be in order before consideration of any other amendment.

When said resolution was considered. After debate,

¶105.20 FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2281) "An Act to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and Performances and Phonograms Treaty, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3694) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4194) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Vet-